

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 13611 231301Z

44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01

PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 OC-06 CCO-00 PC-15

AGR-20 AID-20 OPR-02 SCSE-00 SCA-01 PPTE-00 /216 W

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P R 231200Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8022

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 13611

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB ETRN IN

SUBJECT: LABOR DISPUTE DISRUPTS INDIAN AIRLINES

REF NEW DELHI 13375

1. INDIAN AIRLINES (IA) SERVICES HAVE BEEN FURTHER DISRUPTED, INVOLVING MANY MORE CANCELLATIONS. MADRAS REGION SO FAR LEAST AFFECTED AND BOMBAY WORST AFFECTED.

2. THREE DAYS OF LABOR MINISTRY CONCILIATION, PLUS MEETINGS SEPARATELY WITH MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER RAJ BAHADUR, HAVE LED NOWHERE; MANAGEMENT INSISTS ON ITS RIGHT TO CHANGE NOT ONLY SHIFT TIMINGS BUT ALSO MANNING PATTERNS WHILE UNIONS ALLEGE MANAGEMENT IS UNILATERALLY ALTERING WORKING CONDITIONS. REAL BONE OF CONTENTION, HOWEVER, IS UNION'S FEAR OF LOSING HEAVILY ON OVERTIME WAGES IN THE WAKE OF MANAGEMENT DETERMINATION TO DRASTICALLY CUT WASTEFUL OVERTIME.

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3. SPECULATION RIFE THAT IA HEADING FOR LOCKOUT WITH AIR

CORPORATION EMPLOYEES' UNION (ACEU) STRIKE TO BEGIN NOVEMBER 25 AND ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS "ILLEGALLY" ACQUIESCING. MINISTER RAJ BAHADUR TOLD PARLIAMENT THAT IF IA OPERATIONAL "SAFETY IS IN ANY WAY JEOPARDIZED WE WILL NOT HESITATE TO SUSPEND OPERATIONS." IA EMPLOYEES RECEIVED GENERAL SUPPORT FROM CPI AND CPM PARLIAMENT MEMBERS WHO, THOUGH, SYMPATHIZED WITH IA EFFORTS TO REDUCE OVERTIME, BUT BY AND LARGE EMPLOYEES' ACTION HAS EVOKED SEVERE CRITICISM FROM PARLIAMENT MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND NEWS MEDIA.

4. PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE IA DISPUTE IS UNLIKELY TO AFFECT AIRPORT FACILITIES FOR SERVICING INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS AS THOSE ENGAGED IN THESE OPERATIONS ARE NOT REPEAT NOT IA EMPLOYEES.
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30 JUN 2005

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